

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
One Corliss Park
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 13, 2006

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by: Jake Camara

Minutes Approved on: July 11, 2006

Interpreters: Paul Giard, Jon Henry, Christine West

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees was called to order by Chairperson Marc Gursky at 6:05PM in the RI School for the Deaf Conference Room.

II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees

In Attendance: Bonnie Abols, Carol Dorros, Karen Fifer Ferry, Marc Gursky, Neil Leahey, Jennifer LeComte

Excused: Kathleen Ellis, Tracy Karasinski, Maureen McEntee

III. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. May 9, 2006

- i. Chairperson Gursky asked that in section VI: b: 4 the minutes reflect that he excused himself from the discussion as to whether there was a conflict of interest.
- ii. **Motion** made by Trustee Fifer Ferry to approve the minutes of May 9, 2006 as amended. Seconded by Trustee Abols. Approved unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

- a. No comment.

V. Reports

a. Interim Director

- i. Interim Director John Plante highlighted items from his Interim Director's report.
- ii. Chairperson Gursky asked if it would be appropriate for a Board member to join the students attending the AAA baseball game at McCoy Stadium on June 22nd.
 1. Trustee Leahey volunteered to join the students that are going to the baseball game.
- iii. Discussion took place regarding the current FTE openings at the school and if needs are being appropriately met.

b. Finance Director

- i. Finance Director Jonathan Seamans highlighted items from his Finance Director's report.
- ii. Mr. Seamans will be making presentations at upcoming Board meetings on three topics:
 1. Budget
 2. Revenue
 3. Expenses
- iii. Mr. Seamans informed the Board that several weeks ago the garage at the school was set on fire and windows were broken in the Cohen Room.
- iv. Discussion took place regarding whether additional funding and other collaborations should be pursued to both help prevent future vandalism and to repair what has already been damaged.
- v. **Action:** John Plante will contact CVS, Home Depot, RI Foundation, Boys and Girls Club and community service at RISD for possible assistance.
- vi. **Action:** Jonathan Seamans will get additional estimates for security lighting.

c. Sub-Committees

- i. Budget and Finance
 1. Chairperson Gursky commended Jonathan Seamans and Trustee Fifer Ferry for their work on clarifying the school finances for the Board.
- ii. Building

1. Chairperson Gursky stated that the House Finance Committee met this afternoon and we are now waiting to hear if the school item is approved.
- iii. Director Search
 1. Trustee LeComte stated that there has only been one response to the solicitation for involvement on this committee so far.
 2. **Action:** John Plante will give an administration nomination to Trustee LeComte by next month's meeting.
 3. Discussion took place regarding the involvement of parents.
- iv. Board Development
 1. Discussion took place on how specifically to involve other community members who are not able to serve on the Board of Trustees.
- v. Academic Standards and Curriculum
 1. Chairperson Gursky stated that there has been tremendous progress on this committee.
 2. Two important roles have been defined by the committee:
 - a. The responsibility of faculty at the school is to develop curriculum.
 - b. The responsibility of the Board is to make sure the faculty develops curriculum and that it lines up with the mission of the school.

VI. New Business

- a. Review recommendations of Committee on Academic Standards and Curriculum regarding creation of position of Curriculum Facilitator
 - i. This person would be responsible for making sure there is a link between curriculum and assessments at all levels of the school and to ensure that there is communication among levels.
 - ii. **Action:** John Plante will be developing a job description for this position that he will be presenting at the next meeting. When this position is presented at the next meeting, Jonathan Seamans will confirm whether or not there is money in the budget for this position.
 - iii. Discussion took place regarding how this position will affect the

current FTEs at the school.

- b.** Selection of members for Director Search Committee
 - i. Discussion took place regarding the best method of informing parents that a search committee is being formed as well as getting parents involved in the search committee.
 - ii. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros that a letter be sent out to all parents and students in both Spanish and English that a search committee is being formed. Approved unanimously.

VII. Coordinators

- a.** Cheryl Hollingworth highlighted items from her Transition Coordinator's report.
- b. Action:** Jake will forward Board of Trustees email list to Cheryl Hollingworth.

VIII. New Business

- a.** Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42.46-5 (A)(1), (2) pending litigation, personnel and collective bargaining issues
 - i. **Motion** was made by Trustee Fifer Ferry to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1), (2) at 8:09PM. Seconded by Trustee Dorros. Approved unanimously.
 - ii. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to return to open session at 9:04PM. Seconded by Trustee Abols. Approved unanimously.
 - iii. **Motion** was made by Trustee Dorros to seal the Executive Session minutes. Seconded by Trustee LeComte. Approved unanimously.

IX. Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

- a.** Review recommendations of Committee on Academic Standards and Curriculum regarding creation of position of Curriculum Facilitator
- b.** Selection of members for Director Search Committee
- c.** Approval of new positions
- d.** Review recommendations of Personnel Committee concerning future agenda of the Committee

X. Adjournment

- a. Motion** was made by Trustee Abols to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Leahey. Approved unanimously.
- b.** Meeting adjourned at 9:05PM.